



# TEWKSBURY

## Middlesex County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The Town of Tewksbury is a suburban community located on the uplands between the Concord and Merrimack Rivers. It is located on slightly rolling lowland terrain with large areas of bog and swamp throughout town. Tewksbury was gradually settled from Billerica during the early decades of the 18th century. The original economic base depended on farming and grazing with lumbering as a secondary activity, and a saw mill was established on Trull Brook about 1736. By the early 19th century the Lee family tannery had been built and continued in operation throughout the century. The primarily agricultural economy of the town shifted in the direction of commercial businesses because of its proximity to Lowell. In 1854, the state opened an almshouse in Tewksbury, one of three established by the General Court. The complex of buildings generally held an average of 1000 inmates, and even more after the financial panic of 1857. Residents of Tewksbury developed greenhouses and market gardens between 1890 and 1915 as the town's dominant business, while many hothouses raised carnations and other flowers commercially for city markets. So many were raised that Tewksbury held the name of the carnation town for years. In 1930, New England Power built the Tewksbury substation, bringing power from Vermont over a 230 kv line, the highest voltage line in New England at the time.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Northeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Lowell on the west, Dracut on the north, Andover on the northeast, Wilmington on the southeast, and Billerica on the south. Tewksbury is 4 miles southeast of Lowell, 21 miles north of Boston, and 230 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 21.06 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 20.72 sq. miles

**Population:** 27,266

**Density:** 1,316 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Lawrence Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.7°F

Normal temperature in July.....72.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.8"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Wilmington, Lawrence, Lowell, Billerica

## Regional Planning Agency

Northern Middlesex

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Lowell



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 640-4300

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Manager

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1734

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	14,313		
Democrats	5,399	37.7	%
Republicans	1,630	11.4	%
Other parties	8	0.1	%
Unenrolled Voters	7,276	50.8	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Tewksbury town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	28,851	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	28,851	100.0
Male.....	14,141	49.0	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	352	1.2
Female.....	14,710	51.0	Mexican.....	27	0.1
Under 5 years.....	2,020	7.0	Puerto Rican.....	123	0.4
5 to 9 years.....	2,163	7.5	Cuban.....	26	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,980	6.9	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	176	0.6
15 to 19 years.....	1,619	5.6	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	28,499	98.8
20 to 24 years.....	1,218	4.2	White alone.....	27,608	95.7
25 to 34 years.....	3,917	13.6	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	5,537	19.2	Total population.....	28,851	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	4,285	14.9	In households.....	28,036	97.2
55 to 59 years.....	1,621	5.6	Householder.....	9,964	34.5
60 to 64 years.....	1,180	4.1	Spouse.....	6,483	22.5
65 to 74 years.....	1,926	6.7	Child.....	9,300	32.2
75 to 84 years.....	1,069	3.7	Own child under 18 years.....	6,600	22.9
85 years and over.....	316	1.1	Other relatives.....	1,438	5.0
Median age (years).....	37.6	(X)	Under 18 years.....	505	1.8
18 years and over.....	21,638	75.0	Nonrelatives.....	851	2.9
Male.....	10,466	36.3	Unmarried partner.....	377	1.3
Female.....	11,172	38.7	In group quarters.....	815	2.8
21 years and over.....	20,812	72.1	Institutionalized population.....	654	2.3
62 years and over.....	3,967	13.7	Noninstitutionalized population.....	161	0.6
65 years and over.....	3,311	11.5	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	1,378	4.8	Total households.....	9,964	100.0
Female.....	1,933	6.7	Family households (families).....	7,695	77.2
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	3,579	36.9
One race.....	28,634	99.2	Married-couple family.....	6,483	65.1
White.....	27,824	96.4	With own children under 18 years.....	3,078	30.9
Black or African American.....	194	0.7	Female householder, no husband present.....	909	9.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	36	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	396	4.0
Asian.....	460	1.6	Nonfamily households.....	2,269	22.8
Asian Indian.....	142	0.5	Householder living alone.....	1,880	18.9
Chinese.....	126	0.4	Householder 65 years and over.....	722	7.2
Filipino.....	33	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	3,896	39.1
Japanese.....	10	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	2,204	22.1
Korean.....	55	0.2	Average household size.....	2.81	(X)
Vietnamese.....	46	0.2	Average family size.....	3.24	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	48	0.2	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-	Total housing units.....	10,158	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	9,964	98.1
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	1	-	Vacant housing units.....	194	1.9
Samoa.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	33	0.3
Some other race.....	118	0.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	217	0.8	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	5.6	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races:</i> <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	9,964	100.0
White.....	28,019	97.1	Owner-occupied housing units.....	8,877	89.1
Black or African American.....	248	0.9	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,087	10.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	78	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.90	(X)
Asian.....	526	1.8	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.08	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	26	0.1			
Some other race.....	181	0.6			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 181

Conventional Federal: 50

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 110



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The development of transportation resources in the Merrimack River Valley, where Tewksbury is situated, was shaped by the history of the region as a major site of American industrial development in the nineteenth century. The area has exceptionally good highway and rail facilities linking the major cities and towns to each other and to the port, airport, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 38 and 133 and Interstate Routes 93 and 495, which intersect in neighboring Andover.

### Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is available in the adjacent towns of Andover (travel time from Ballardvale: 43-47 min.; 105 MBTA parking spaces), Billerica (travel time 37-41 min.; 333 parking spaces), and Lowell (travel time 45-49 min.; 680 MBTA parking spaces). The Springfield Terminal Railway provides freight rail service in Tewksbury. Contact number: (978) 663-1073.

### Bus

Tewksbury is a member of the Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA), which provides fixed bus service between Lowell and Tewksbury. Limited paratransit services are available for the elderly and disabled through the town.

### Other

Tew-Mac Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, has two asphalt runways: 2,600'x 60' and 2,830'x 26'. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. Other nearby airports include the Lawrence Municipal Airport in North Andover and L.G. Hanscom Field in Bedford. Flight Line offers service to Logan Airport and the Manchester, NH, Airport.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

Tewksbury Hospital

### Long Term Care

Blaire House LTCF Tewksbury

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.